

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, EFIN, IT, IMF
SUBJ: NATIONAL LABOR ASSEMBLY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 9-10

REF: ROME 6327

1. SUMMARY. ITALIAN LABOR'S DRIVE TO INFLUENCE NATIONAL ECONOMIC
POLICY AND THE POLITICAL SCENE SEEMS TO BE RUNNING OUT OF STEAM.
ALARM AT THE GOI'S "LETTER OF INTENT" TO THE IMF(REFTEL) HAS
SUBSIDED, OVERSHADOWED BY CONCERN AT THE THREAT TO DEMOCRACY
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INHERENT IN MUSHROOMING EXTREMIST VIOLENCE -- THE PRINCIPAL
THEME OF MAY 1 ORATORY. (SEPTTEL). PRE-CONGRESS MANEUVERING IN
THE CONFEDERATIONS AND PARTISAN SQUABBLING OVER WHETHER OR NOT
TO FAVOR CHANGES IN THE NATIONAL POLITICAL SET-UP PREVENTED
THE TRI-CONFEDERATIONAL LABOR FEDERATION (CCU) FROM TAKING
A CLEAR STAND AT ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 29.
A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF UNION OFFICIALS AND FACTORY DELEGATES

WILL BE HELD AT RIMINI MAY 9-10. END SUMMARY.

2. THE CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) FEDERATION'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVED A WATERED DOWN REPORT PRESENTED BY UIL SECRETARY RUGGERO RAVENNA (SOCIALIST) APRIL 29. RAVENNA'S REPORT HAD BEEN REVISED AT THE CCU SECRETARIAT MEETING APRIL 27 IN RESPONSE TO CISL COMPLAINTS THAT THE ORIGINAL DRAFT REFLECTED PARTISAN UIL AND CGIL DESIRES TO MOVE TOWARD A GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED BY A MAJORITY INCLUDING THE PCI. THE REPORT AS ADOPTED CALLED UPON THE POLITICAL PARTIES TO AGREE ON AN EMERGENCY PROGRAM, BUT DISAVOWED ANY CCU DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE "AS A SEVENTH PARTY" IN DRAWING IT UP. THE CCU SINGLED OUT FIVE AREAS FOR URGENT GOVERNMENT ACTION: 1) CONTROL OR RESTRAINT OF PRICES, 2) LIMITATION AND BETTER DIRECTION OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING, 3) INVESTMENT, ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTH, 4) INDUSTRIAL "RECONVERSION" AND 5) REORGANIZATION OF FISCAL POLICY IN ORDER TO PERMIT SIMULTANEOUS REFORM OF THE UNIVERSITY, HEALTH AND RENT CONTROL SYSTEMS. CCU SPOKESMEN MADE IT CLEAR THAT CCU CONTINUES OPEN TO DIALOGUE WITH THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT. IT ALSO SCHEDULED THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF UNION OFFICIALS AND FACTORY DELEGATES, TO WHICH IT WAS ALREADY COMMITTED, FOR MAY 9-10 AT RIMINI AND LEFT IT TO THE CATEGORY UNIONS AND REGIONAL BODIES OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS TO DETERMINE HOW TO SELECT THE 2,000-SOME WHO WILL ATTEND. THE CCU SECRETARIAT RESOLVED TO INSTITUTIONALIZE SUCH ASSEMBLIES ON A REGIONAL AS WELL AS NATIONAL BASIS.

3. PRIOR TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, EACH OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THREE CONFEDERATIONS HELD SEMINARS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. THE CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC-ORIENTED CISL CONCENTRATED ITS SEMINAR ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTH. THE MOST-PUBLICIZED OF THE THREE SEMINARS WAS THAT OF THE SMALL, SOCIALIST-LED UIL. IT EXPLORED VARIOUS WAYS OF ATTACKING ITALY'S INFLATION PROBLEM FROM THE PRICE, RATHER THAN WAGE, SIDE, SUCH AS IMPROVING ITALY'S DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, MODIFYING THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATIVE PRICES, INSTITUTING ANTI-TRUST MEASURES, EXPANDING AND REFORMING GOVERNMENT PRICE SURVEILLANCE MECHANISMS AND INDUCING MAJOR FIRMS TO REFRAIN FROM OR JUSTIFY PRICE INCREASES. GARDNER

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